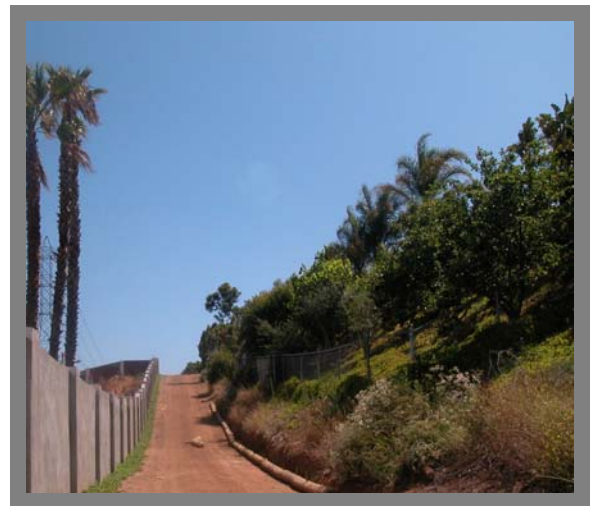# Valle De Oro Community Trails and Pathways Plan

Trails: The Community Connection

The Community Trails Master Plan will be utilized to develop a system of interconnected regional and community trails and pathways. These trails and pathways are intended to address an established public need for recreation and transportation, but will also provide health and quality of life benefits associated with hiking, biking, and horseback riding throughout the County's biologically diverse environments.

Community trails serve a different function than regional trails, which are focused on the provision of long linear distances. Instead, community trails are "local public facilities" in close proximity to residents that provide transportation, recreation, access, infrastructure, linkages and safe routes throughout a community. The Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP) involves both trail development and management on public, semi-public and private lands. The CTMP has established two forms of non-motorized facilities called "Trails" and "Pathways" that provide passive recreational, and alternative modes of transportation.

Valle De Oro Community Trail

Trails are paths, typically away from vehicular roads, that are primarily recreational in nature but can also serve as an alternative mode of transportation. They are soft-surface facilities for single or multiple use by pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians and other non-motorized users.

Pathways are a non-motorized transportation facility located within a parkway or road right of way. A riding and hiking trail located in the road right of way is considered a pathway. They are soft-surfaced facilities intended to serve both circulation and

recreation purposes. Pathways help make critical connections and are an integral part of a functional trail system.

COMMUNITY TRAIL STATEMENT

The recreational trails in the Valle De Oro Community Plan area serve about 42,000 people. Significant features and characteristics of this area from the standpoint of recreational trails are the following:

The Sweetwater Regional Trail

This Regional Trail passes through the southeastern part of the Community Plan area and provides excellent trail connectivity to the east and to the west, as well as connectivity among the various community trails in the area.

The San Diego Wildlife Refuge

This 1800-acre National Wildlife Refuge is located in close proximity to the Sweetwater Regional Trail. The presence of the Regional Trail, plus the connectivity of community trails to the Regional Trail and to each other, makes access to the Wildlife Refuge possible, thus contributing greatly to recreational uses of the Wildlife Refuge.

Recreational Opportunities for the Rancho San Diego Area

The trails in the Valle De Oro plan area provide recreational opportunities to the population center in Rancho San Diego. These opportunities include nature walks, jogging loops and equestrian trails. The presence of one of the few equestrian centers in the County, and the connectivity of this equestrian center to the trails, provide a particularly unique and valuable recreational resource for this area.

Trail Connections to the North

The trail connections to the north of Jamacha Road and Willow Glen Road provide trail access and connectivity to people in estate size residences in this area.

The Old Stage Road

The historic Old Stage Road located parallel to and southeast of Willow Glen Road (Trail #6) provides a unique opportunity to develop and use this historical significant resource as a segment of the trails system for the Valle De Oro Community Plan area. This trail, when property developed, will provide a high level of trail experience as well as connectivity between the Wildlife Refuge and trails to the east.

THE NEED FOR TRAILS

The community trail needs are based on an equation established by the Trails System Assessment (TSA) in 2001, which identified a minimum baseline level of service for each community by population. The Baseline Level of Service or Trail Need is 0.8 miles of trail per 1,000 people.

The "Trail Need" is the minimum length in trail miles (baseline level of service) for each Community and Subregional Plan Area. Population statistics from the 2000 U.S. Census were used to determine the current trail needs in Valle De Oro. Based on the census, the population of the Valle De Oro Community Plan Area is 40,104 and there is a current need for 32 miles of community trails. In the year 2020, the population is projected to increase to 43,120 and there would be a future need for 35 miles of community trails.

For additional information about the baseline level of service and trail needs, please refer to the discussion under "**The Need for Trails**" and **Tables NT-1 and NT-2** in the CTMP.

COUNTYWIDE TRAIL GOALS AND POLICIES

The **"Countywide Goals and Policies"** contained in the CTMP apply to all community and sub-regional plan areas. Community-specific goals and policies are intended to accommodate specific needs and they will be implemented when feasible. Where Community-specific goals and policies are not addressed, the **"Countywide Goals and Policies"** contained in CTMP shall apply.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

Countywide trail guidelines in the Community Trails Master Plan apply to all community and sub-regional plan areas. Community-specific guidelines are intended to accommodate specific community needs and they will be implemented when feasible. Where Community specific guidelines are not addressed, the Countywide **"Design and Construction Guidelines"** contained in the CTMP shall apply.

VALLE DE ORO COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP SUMMARY

As a result of the community trails outreach process for development of the CTMP, the Valle De Oro Community Planning Group completed several tasks, and prioritized community trails and pathways as well as their special features. Each trail and pathway was labeled and recorded producing a community trails map and index.

Proposed trails shown on trails maps contained in the Community Trail Master Plan depict corridors of general alignments. The term "general alignment" is used to describe the general location of a future trail within a designated corridor so that the specific alignment can be determined during the review and approval process when a discretionary application is submitted for a development permit for land that includes a trail corridor. The designated corridor is approximately one–quarter mile wide. A general alignment is useful because it allows the trail to be located to avoid extreme topographical conditions, sensitive habit or other site-specific constraints.

VALLE DE ORO COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP INDEX

The following community trails map index was completed by the Valle De Oro Community Planning Group and will be used as a reference tool.

VALLE DE ORO TRAILS MAP INDEX

Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name: / Connections:	Trail Status / Type / Priority / Length	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
1	35/25	Name: Sweetwater Regional Trail Connections: All Valle de Oro pathways and trails	Trail Status: (x) Existing ( ) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail ( ) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 7.6	Connections to county trail system. Large trail user populations. High quality of trail experience.	1. Connectivity.
2	35	Name: County Loop Connections: Sweetwater Regional Trail #1	Trail Status: (x) Existing ( ) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail ( ) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 1.7	Need for short accessible loop trails. Large trail user population.	1. Short, accessible loop trail for hikers.
3	35	Name: Meadow Loop Connections: Sweetwater Regional Trail #1	Trail Status: (x) Existing ( ) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail ( ) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: .7	Quality of trail experience is high. Large user population	1. Pristine yet easily accessible.
4	35	Name: Equestrian Center Trail Connections: Sweetwater Regional Trail #1	Trail Status: (x) Existing ( ) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail ( ) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: .7	Connects to regional trail. Large trail user populations.	1. Trail connectivity of equestrian center.
5	35	Name: Wildlife Refuge Loop Connections: Sweetwater Regional Trail #1; Old Stage Trail #6 and Invanhoe Loop #7	Trail Status: (x) Existing ( ) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail ( ) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 6	Quality of trail experience. Large trail user population. Need for trails in Wildlife Refuge.	1. San Diego Wildlife Refuge.
6	35/ 25	Name: Old Stage Road Trail Connections: Sweetwater Regional Trail #1	Trail Status: ( ) Existing (x) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail ( ) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 3.5	Quality of trail experience is high. Need for trail separated from Willow Glen Rd.	1. Historical significance of Old Stage Road.

VALLE DE ORO TRAILS MAP INDEX

Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name / Connections	Trail Status / Type / Priority / Length	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
7	35	Name: Invanhoe Loop Connections: Old Stage Road Trail #6	Trail Status: (x) Existing (x) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail ( ) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 3.5	Connects to many other trails. Large trail user population.	1. Connectivity.
8	35/25	Name: Wieghorst Loop Connections: Sweetwater Regional Trail; Navajo Extension	Trail Status: (x) Existing (x) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 3	Connects to Regional Trail. Large trail user populations.	1. Connectivity.
9	35/25	Name: Damon Lane Extension Connections: Wieghorst Loop	Trail Status: (x) Existing (x) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 1	Connects to Regional Trail. Large trail user populations. Quality of trail experience.	1. Connectivity.
10	35/25	Name: Navajo Extension Connections: Wieghorst Loop	Trail Status: ( ) Existing (x) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail ( ) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: .9	Trail connectivity. Large user population.	1. Connectivity.
11	35/25	Name: Hillsdale/Vista Grande Extension Connections: Sweetwater Regional Trail	Trail Status: (x) Existing (x) Proposed Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 2.5	Connects to Regional Trail. Large trail user populations.	1. Connectivity.
12	35	Name: Campo Road Extension Connections: Sweetwater Regional Trail	Trail Status: ( ) Existing (x) Proposed Trail Type: ( ) Trail (x) Pathway Trail Priority: (x) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 1.6	Connects to Regional Trail. Large trail user populations.	1. Connectivity.